



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

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Dated 20 March 2002

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Patents Form 1/77
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09JUL99 E460854-7 D02917
P01/7700 0.00 - 9916086.3

Request for grant of a patent

The Patent Office
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1RH

1. Your reference
1830401/AM
2. Patent Application Number
9916086.3 08 JUL 1999
3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (*underline all surnames*)

Scientific Generics Limited
Harston Mill
Harston
Cambridgeshire CB2 5NH

Patents ADP number (*if known*) 56913 874003

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the Country: ENGLAND
country/state of its incorporation State: *dy*
4. Title of the invention

WAVELENGTH DIVISION MULTIPLEXING FOR FREE SPACE OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS
5. Name of agent Beresford & Co

"Address for Service" in the United Kingdom 2/5 Warwick Court
to which all correspondence should be sent High Holborn
London WC1R 5DJ

Patents ADP number 1526001 *dy*
6. Priority details

Country Priority application number Date of filing

Patents Form 1/77

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application give details

~~PERSON F-4230243 00 JUL 90~~

~~LABOUR~~ Number of earlier of application

Date of filing

8. Is a statement of inventorship and or right to grant of a patent required in support of this request?

YES

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.

Continuation sheets of this form

Description

2

Claim(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s)

3

+ 3

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and
right to grant of a patent (*Patents form 7/77*)

1 + 2 COPIES

Request for preliminary examination
and search (*Patents Form 9/77*)

Request for Substantive Examination
(*Patents Form 10/77*)

Any other documents
(*please specify*)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

Signature

Beresford & Co
BERESFORD & Co

Date

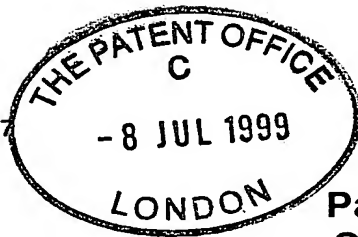
8 July 1999

12. Name and daytime telephone number of
person to contact in the United Kingdom

ALAN MACDOUGALL

Tel: 0171-831-2290

Patents Form 7/77
Patents Act 1977
(Rule 15)



**The
Patent
Office**

**Statement of inventorship and of
right to grant of a patent**

The Patent Office
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1RH

1. Your reference
1830401/AM
2. Patent Application Number
accompanying application reference 1830401
9916086.3
3. Full name of the or each applicant
Scientific Generics Limited
4. Title of the invention
WAVELENGTH DIVISION MULTIPLEXING FOR FREE SPACE OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS
5. State how the applicant(s) derived the right from the inventor(s) to be granted a patent
BY VIRTUE OF EMPLOYMENT.
6. How many, if any additional Patents Forms
7/77 are attached to this form?
NONE
11. I/We believe that the person(s) named over the page (and on any extra copies of this form) is/are the inventor(s) of the invention which the above patent application relates to.

Signature *Beresford & Co* Date **8 July 1999**
BERESFORD & Co
12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom
ALAN MACDOUGALL
Tel: 0171-831-2290

Patents Form 7/77

MORRISON, Euan
c/o Scientific Generics Limited
Harston Mill
Harston
Cambridgeshire CB2 5NH

GREEN, Alan Edward
c/o Scientific Generics Limited
Harston Mill
Harston
Cambridgeshire CB2 5NH

Wavelength Division Multiplexing for Free Space Optical Communications

Background

The applicant has described in WO98/35328 an optical communication system employing a pixellated reflective modulator array combined with a telecentric optical system. The system operates by assigning each user of the system a unique pixel in the array. Each pixel in the array maps to a unique angular position in the field of view of the telecentric optical system (figure 1). The content of WO98/35328 is incorporated herein by way of reference.

Whilst a number of optical modulator technologies may be employed to produce systems according to WO98/35328, Quantum Confined Stark Effect (QCSE, sometimes also referred to as Self Electro-Optic Effect Devices or SEEDs) have advantages that they can operate at high bandwidths (in excess of 1GHz) and can be formed in large arrays.

Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM) is a technique well known in optical fibre communication systems. A number of lasers at different wavelength are combined via a Wavelength Division Multiplexer into a single optical fibre. The signals are transmitted over a single fibre, and each wavelength is then separated with a Wavelength Division Demultiplexer onto a separate receiver. Since each laser can be individually modulated to carry data, the total data bandwidth of such a system is thus n times the rate for each individual laser, where n is the number of lasers used.

Our invention concerns the use of WDM in a free space optical system of the type described in WO98/35328.

Description of the Invention

In systems according to our invention, we combine a number of 'receivers' into a single optical channel. Each receiver consists of a laser, beam splitting optics and optical receiver as described in WO98/35328. However, in this case each receiver has a laser at a different wavelength, and dichroic optics are used to combine the receivers output beams into a single beam, as shown in figure 2. The combined beam would typically be expanded using a telescope prior to transmission.

The QCSE modulator is a wavelength sensitive device. Figure 3 shows typical response curves for such a modulator as a function of wavelength.

The particular wavelength response can, however, be selected at time of manufacture. Therefore, in systems according to our invention, dichroic optics are used to separate

the various transmitted wavelengths to wavelength matched QCSE arrays, as shown in figure 4.

Systems according to our invention have the advantage that the bandwidth available to each user of the system is increased by a factor equal to the number of laser wavelengths available.

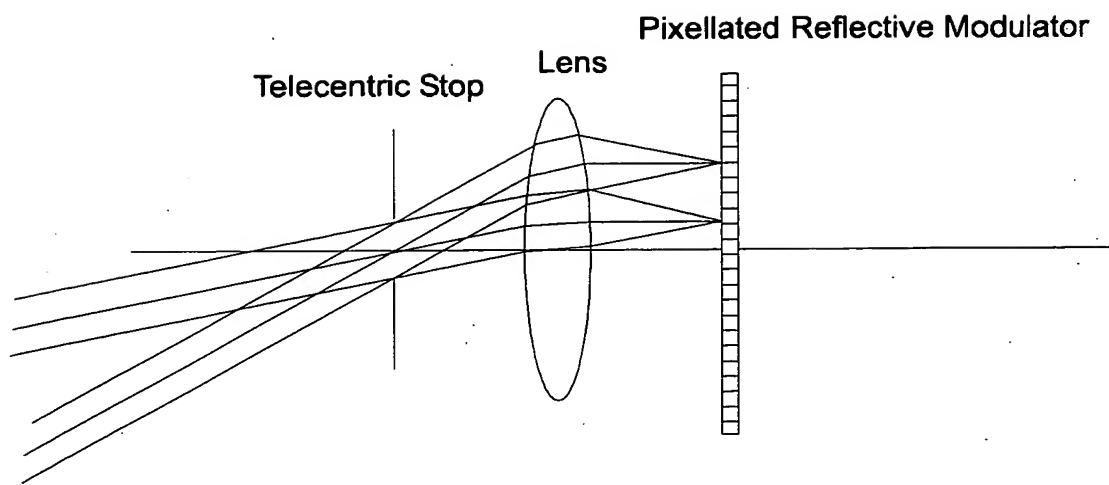


Figure 1

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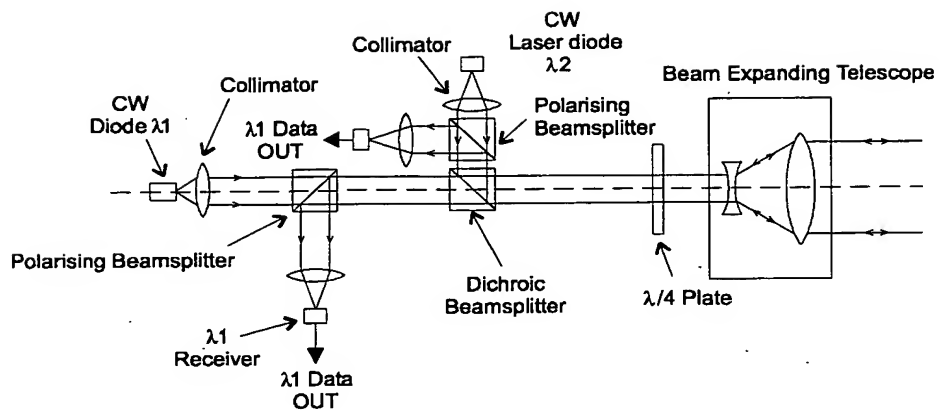


Figure 2

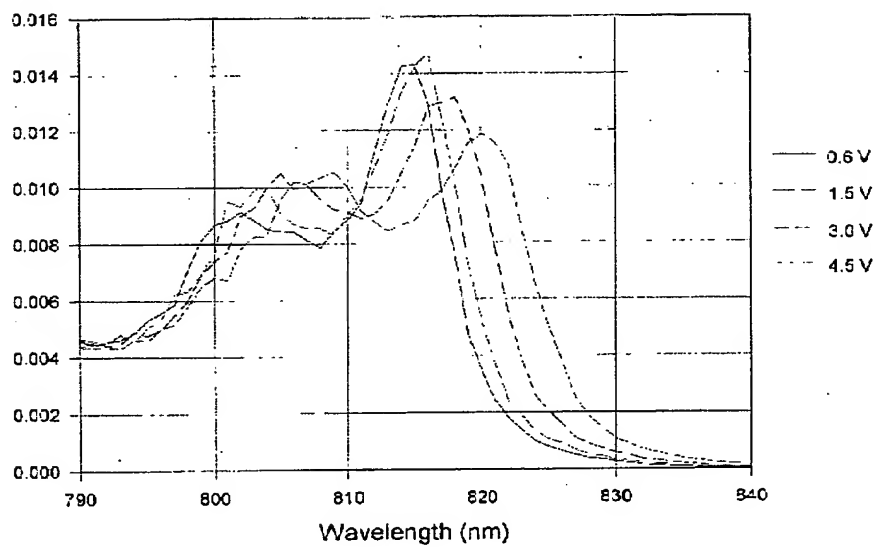


Figure 3

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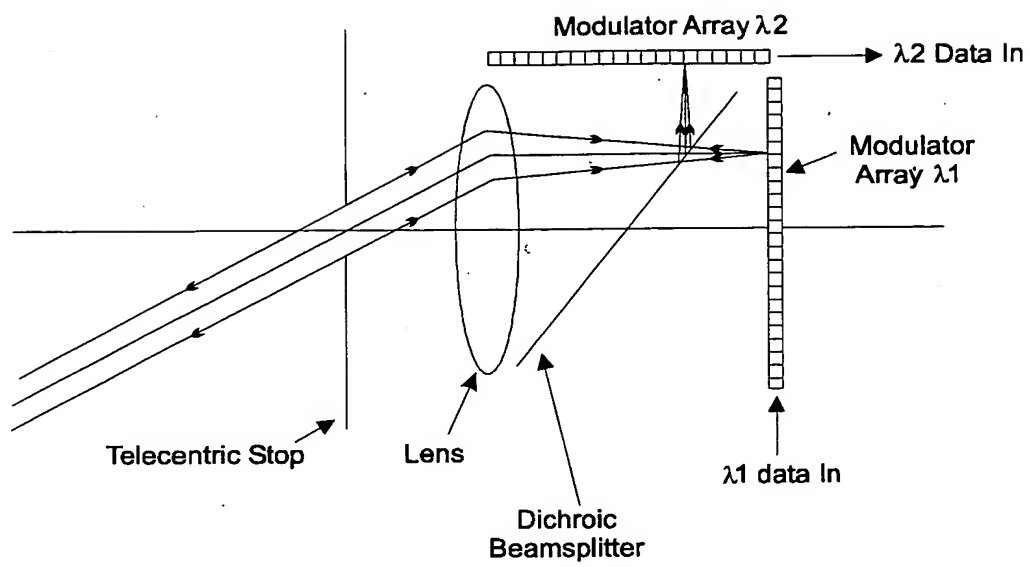


Figure 4

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FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

SERIAL NO: 10/038, 576

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